

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 12, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Lydia Martinez, Angel dePara, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:45 p.m.)

STAFF: Michael Feeney, Finance Director; Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director; Larry Osborn, Labor Relations

OTHERS: Council Member James Holloway, Council Member Robert Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He introduced the members of the Committee to those present.

**INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S 8
MILLION DOLLAR UNION BUDGET GAP.**

Mr. Feeney said that the City was expecting to end 2009-2010 budget year with a positive balance of \$225,000. He explained that this was because the lien sale went forward and 1.3 million dollars was raised. Not all the properties in the lien sale were bid on, so the amount was somewhat smaller than expected.

Mr. Sherwood said that while the new fiscal year has closed, the books remain open to allow the vendors and the City to finish up payments. Once that is done, then the books will be handed over to the auditors for their review.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Feeney where the \$225,000 surplus would go. Mr. Feeney said that it would be put in the Fund Balance.

Mr. Sherwood said that the 2010-11 budget has been adopted and that it had an 8 million dollar gap that was acknowledged before the adoption. He said that the clock has started to run.

Council Member Holloway said that the Council Members were not to be involved in labor negotiations; it was a conflict of interest. He said that the Labor Relations negotiators were supposed to work with the unions and then report the final details to the Council for a vote, anything more than that would be a conflict of interest. He said that if the Committee spoke with the negotiators, there would be a lawsuit.

Council Member Holloway left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Council Member Walsh said while Council Member Holloway might be correct to the final letter of the law, he disagreed. He said that when the last contract between the City and Police Department had been finalized, he had asked a number of questions about the contracts. Council Member Walsh said that he felt that the Council needed to know all the details of the various contracts, particularly since there are a number of contracts that have expired. He said that in order to make decisions, the Council Members need to know the current status of things and what the budgetary impacts would be.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL ISSUES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee, Council Member Walsh, Mr. Sherwood, Mr. Feeney, and Mr. Osborne entered into Executive Session at 6:42 p.m.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Council Member Brannelly left the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The Committee returned to public session at 7:40 p.m.

Council Member Curwen said that there were a number of items that the City could not discuss with the Council at this point.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services